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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 and 27-39 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 8-26 are canceled and claims 27-39 are added, above. Claims 1-7 stand rejected on prior art grounds. Applicants respectfully traverse these objections/rejections based on the following discussion.

**I. The Prior Art Rejections**

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Levy (U.S. Patent No. 5,469,379). Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,166,556). Claims 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Levy (U.S. Patent No. 5,469,379). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following discussion.

**A. The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection Based on Levy**

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Levy does not disclose (or suggest) the use of a fin within an antifuse structure. To the contrary, Levy discloses a feature which is only described as "a programmable link 58", which is illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 as being rectangular in cross-section (column 3, line 53). There is no description within Levy which would indicate that the link 58 is formed in the shape of a fin. To the contrary, the remainder of Levy appears to indicate that the link 58 comprises a square or flat rectangle, or a disk-shaped structure that is not equivalent to the claimed structure which is explicitly defined to include "fin."

The only description of the link 58 in Levy can be found in the paragraph appearing in column 3, lines 50-61, which describes that the link forms a selective connection between conductors 55 and 60. In this manner of description, the link 58 appears to be described as some type of a via between wiring layers 55 and 60. One ordinarily skilled in the art would understand

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that a via comprises flattened rectangular sections of wiring or openings filled with a material. Neither type of via could in any way be described as a fin structure because a via normally comprises a flattened square or disk of material that is wide and flat enough to reliably form an electrical connection between adjacent conductive structures. Therefore, Applicants submit that Levy clearly does not explicitly teach any type of fin structure and that the most that can be implied into the teachings of Levy is a flattened disk or rectangular structure.

While it is important to apply the broadest reasonable definition to terms used within claims in order to provide a quality examination of the claims, such interpretation of the language used within the claims cannot ignore the clear and unambiguous language within the claims. Here independent claim 1 defines a "fin" which is commonly understood to be a thin projection (which can be rectangular) that extends from a surface. Here, the Office Action ignores the requirement in the claims for a "fin" and proposes that the link 58 within Levy (which is not described as being a fin and cannot reasonably be interpreted as being a fin, as described above) is somehow equivalent to the claimed fin structure. The terminology "fin" is not ambiguous and is a readily defined term found within common usage in many arts. Further, the specification fully describes the shape of the fin and illustrates the fin quite clearly in perspective view (Figure 6). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that in this situation, the interpretation relied upon in the Office Action for the term "fin" is unreasonably broad. By attempting to equate the link 58 in Levy with the term "fin" used in independent claim 1, the Office Action is attempting to render the term "fin" meaningless. If the interpretation of claim language would render the claim language meaningless, such an interpretation is overly broad and unreasonable.

Therefore, as shown above, Levy does not disclose or suggest the claimed "fin" defined by independent claim 1. Failing to disclose a fin, Levy cannot teach or suggest that, in the fin "end portions comprise conductors" or that "said center portion of said fin comprises a substantially non-conductive region." Simply put, while Levy discloses an anti-fuse structure, Levy does not disclose or suggest any form of anti-fuse structure that includes a fin. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Levy. Further, dependent claims 2, 3, and 5 are similarly not anticipated by Levy. In view of the foregoing, the

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Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

**B. The Rejection based on Hsu**

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Hsu does not disclose (or suggest) the use of a fin within an antifuse structure. To the contrary, Hsu discloses an antifuse "layer" 30 that is illustrated in Figure 2 as being V-shaped in cross-section. There is no description within Hsu which would indicate that the antifuse layer 30 is formed in the shape of a fin.

While it is important to apply the broadest reasonable definition to terms used within claims in order to provide a quality examination of the claims, such interpretation of the language used within the claims cannot ignore the clear and unambiguous language within the claims. Here independent claim 1 defines a "fin" which is commonly understood to be a thin projection (which can be rectangular) that extends from a surface. Here, the Office Action ignores the requirement in the claims for a "fin" and proposes that the antifuse layer 30 within Hsu (which is not described as being a fin and cannot reasonably be interpreted as being a fin) is somehow equivalent to the claimed fin structure. The terminology "fin" is not ambiguous and is a readily defined term found within common usage in many arts. Further, the specification fully describes the shape of the fin and illustrates the fin quite clearly in perspective view (Figure 6). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that in this situation, the interpretation relied upon in the Office Action for the term "fin" is unreasonably broad. By attempting to equate the V-shaped antifuse layer 30 in Hsu with the term "fin" used in independent claim 1, the Office Action is attempting to render the term "fin" meaningless. If the interpretation of claim language would render the claim language meaningless, such an interpretation is overly broad and unreasonable.

Therefore, as shown above, Hsu does not disclose or suggest the claimed "fin" defined by independent claim 1. Failing to disclose a fin, Hsu cannot teach or suggest that, in the fin "end portions comprise conductors" or that "said center portion of said fin comprises a substantially non-conductive region." Simply put, while Hsu discloses an anti-fuse structure, Hsu does not disclose or suggest any form of anti-fuse structure that includes a fin. Thus, Applicants

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respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Hsu. Further, dependent claim 6 is similarly patentable over Hsu. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

**C. The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection based on Levy**

As shown above, while Levy discloses an anti-fuse structure, Levy does not disclose or suggest any form of anti-fuse structure that includes a fin. Therefore, Levy cannot teach or suggest the details of the fin that are included within dependent claims 4 and 7. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 4 and 7 are not obvious in view of Levy and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

**II. Formal Matters and Conclusion**

With respect to the objections to the claims, the claims have been amended, above, to overcome these objections. In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-7 and 27-39, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

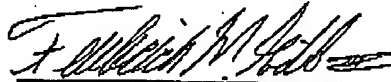
Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

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Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit  
Account Number 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,

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